

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: 4/16/04

Signature: [Signature]

(Ronald E. Cahill)

Docket No.: 022956-0071
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Ian D. McCrury et al.

Application No.: 10/024,625

Confirmation No.: 3998

Filed: December 18, 2001

Art Unit: 3731

For: SUTURE WELDING SYSTEM AND
METHOD

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

APR 21 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are the following documents for filing in connection with the above-referenced patent application:

1. Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement;
2. PTO/SB/08A Form with cited references thereon;
3. A copy of each cited (2) references;
4. A copy of International Search Report; and
5. Return receipt postcard.

Dated: 4/16/04

Respectfully submitted,

By [Signature]

Ronald E. Cahill

Registration No.: 38,403

NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP

World Trade Center West

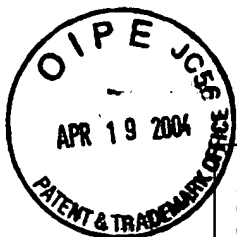
155 Seaport Boulevard

Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2604

(617) 439-2000

(617) 310-9000 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: 4/16/04

Signature:

(Ronald E. Cahill)

Docket No.: 022956-0071
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Ian D. McRury et al.

Application No.: 10/024,625

Confirmation No.: 3998

Filed: December 18, 2001

Art Unit: 3731

For: SUTURE WELDING SYSTEM AND
METHOD

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

APR 21 2004

RECEIVED

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97, Applicant(s) hereby make of record the following additional documents. A PTO Form SB/08 and a full copy of each of these documents accompany this statement.

Applicant(s) have become aware of the following documents, cited in an International Search Report issued February 13, 2004, during the prosecution of international application no. EP 02257966, which corresponds to the above referenced application, and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(c) and (e)(1) or (b)(3), hereby submit(s) these documents for the Examiner's consideration. These documents are cited on the enclosed PTO Form SB/08, and a copy of the International Search Report and each document cited thereon are enclosed as well.

This statement is not to be interpreted as a representation that the cited documents are material, that an exhaustive search has been conducted, or that no other relevant information exists. Nor shall the citation of any document herein be construed *per se* as a representation that such document is prior art. Moreover, Applicant(s) understand(s) the Examiner will make an independent evaluation of the cited documents.

The undersigned hereby certifies that each item contained in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Furthermore, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.704(d), Applicant(s) note(s) that to our knowledge this communication was not received by any individual designated in 1.156(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this statement.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 141449, under Order No. 022956-0071. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: 4/16/04

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Ronald E. Cahill

Registration No.: 38,403

NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP

World Trade Center West

155 Seaport Boulevard

Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2604

(617) 439-2000

(617) 310-9000 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant



PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/024,625-Conf. #3998
				Filing Date	December 18, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Ian D. Mcurry
				Art Unit	3731
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	022956-0071

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	AA	US-6,077,277	06-20-2000	Mollenauer et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY			
	BA	WO 01/87165	11-22-2001	Westhaver et al.		

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

RECEIVED
APR 21 2004
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--